



**USAID | PHILIPPINES**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## **PRESS CLIPPINGS**

Office of Program Resources Management

(632) 552-9907

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

**“USAID/Philippines does not vouch for the accuracy or the opinions of the articles provided in this press clipping service and assumes no responsibility for their content. Please contact USAID/Philippines at [infoph@usaid.gov](mailto:infoph@usaid.gov) if you have any questions about USAID programs and projects.”**

### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

(Economic Reform, Private Sector Development, Trade and Agriculture)

#### **Mega-fishing takes over multi-species hatchery**

TAWI-Tawi has leased its multi-species hatchery to sardine industry leader Mega Fishing Corp. (MFC), under an agreement signed by Governor Sadikul Sahali and MFC president William Lim.

The hatchery, which will produce up to 400,000 fingerlings of grouper and 1.6 to 3.4 million abalone spats annually, will help to ensure a steady and sustainable supply of high-value marine species for grow-out by fish farmers selling to Asian

markets.

The hatchery-bred young will be purchased by approximately 1,000 growers in Tawi-Tawi and nearby areas, including former combatants of the Moro National Liberation Front who have been assisted by USAid's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) program to become mariculture farmers.

The hatchery is expected to help prevent the depletion of various commercial

marine species in the Sulu archipelago, as local growers will no longer have to rely on catching young fish in the wild for grow-out, in order to meet market demand.

Zamboanga-based MFC is a deep-sea purse seine fishing company which ships its canned fish products to 22 countries. It reported a 50-percent increase in its volume of exports in 2007.

The establishment of the

multi-species hatchery, which was turned over by the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to the provincial government last month, was assisted by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, and the GEM Program, which is implemented with the oversight of the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

**(Source: SunStar Davao, 5/08/08, page 7)**